

**HISTORICAL  
DICTIONARY  
OF NIGER**

*Third Edition*

**SAMUEL DECALO**

ganda, by M. Louise Pirouet. 1995.  
enegal, 2nd ed., by Andrew F. Clark and Lucie Colvin Phillips.  
1994.  
lgeria, 2nd ed., by Phillip Chiviges Naylor and Alf Andrew Heg-  
oy. 1994.  
gypt, by Arthur Goldschmidt, Jr. 1994.  
mauritania, by Anthony G. Pazzanita. 1996.  
ogo, 3rd ed., by Samuel Decalo. 1996.  
ongo, 3rd ed., by Samuel Decalo, Virginia Thompson, and Richard  
dloff. 1996.  
ali, 3rd ed., by Pascal James Imperato. 1996.  
iger, 3rd ed., by Samuel Decalo. 1997.

# **HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF NIGER**

*Third Edition*

by  
**Samuel Decalo**

*African Historical Dictionaries, No. 72*



**The Scarecrow Press, Inc.**  
**Lanham, Md., and London**  
**1997**

SCARECROW PRESS, INC.

Published in the United States of America  
by Scarecrow Press, Inc.  
4720 Boston Way  
Lanham, Maryland 20706

4 Pleydell Gardens, Folkestone  
Kent CT20 2DN, England

Copyright © 1997 by Samuel Decalo

British Cataloguing-in-Publication Information Available

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Decalo, Samuel

Historical dictionary of Niger / by Samuel Decalo. — 3rd ed.  
p. cm. — (African historical dictionaries ; no. 20)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-8108-3136-8 (cloth : alk. paper)

1. Niger—History—Dictionaries. I. Title. II. Series.

DT547.5.D4 1997

966.26'033—dc20

95-52222

CIP

ISBN 0-8108-3136-8 (cloth: alk. paper)

Ⓢ™ The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of  
American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of  
Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48—1984.  
Manufactured in the United States of America.

DT 966.26003  
547.5 D357  
D43 1997  
1997

Africana  
IAS

Contents

For Roma, Ruth, and Niv

EP015A40052



## Contents

Editor's Foreword (Jon Woronoff)	xi
Recent Political Chronology	xiii
Acronyms and Abbreviations	xxiii
Tables	xxix
Maps	xxxii
INTRODUCTION	1
THE DICTIONARY	15
BIBLIOGRAPHY	335
About the Author	486

## Bibliography

As is true for much of Francophone Africa, most of the literature on Niger is in French. The bibliography that follows, though comprehensive, stresses in particular the social sciences. Though a considerable amount of research has accumulated on Niger, the quantity camouflages the existence of serious gaps in several fields and the contemporary nature of much of it. Not a single book on Niger was published between 1927 and 1952, for example, and for the last phase of the colonial period (1945-60) the material available is hardly satisfactory. It is for this reason that the series of monographs entitled *Etudes Nigériennes* (jointly published in Niamey and Paris), though they tend to stress history and ethnology, are invaluable, since they fill some of these gaps. The bibliographic notes that follow aim at providing a brief guide to some of the more significant literature in several of the categories into which the bibliography is divided.

In the "Archaeology and Prehistory" section, the published works of Paul Huard, Henri Hugot, and Henri Lhote are both voluminous and seminal. Hugot has also reported on the 1960 Berliet-Ténéré scientific expedition, and Lhote on the discovery of the site of the ancient Tadeliza (see his article in *Notes Africaines* [1973] under this heading). Also worth noting is the research by Mauny and De Zeltner.

On the early explorations of Niger, many articles have been written by military officers and administrators who participated in the territory's conquest and early administration. Though not including much material specific to Niger, the massive volumes by Heinrich Barth—*Travels and Discoveries in North and Central Africa*—are strongly recommended, as well as those by Gustav Nachtigal, *Sahara and Sudan*.

Many excellent works exist in the fields of anthropology and ethnology, and much additional research accumulates yearly in these fields. Of particular note is the fact that by now a number of outstanding works exist in English (especially those by Stoller). In general, however, some of Niger's ethnic groups, notably the Tuareg, continue to receive an inordinate amount of attention, while others still tend to be less studied.

The two studies by Briggs (in English) are seminal on the populations of the Sahara (including the Toubou), as are the works by Capot-Rey and Chapelle on the same groupings. Ligers has published extensively on the Sorko; Jean Rouch on the Songhay; and of great importance are



the studies of Marguerite Dupire on Niger's Fulani (including her solid *Peuls Nomads*). This last is directly comparable with Stenning's book in English on the Wodaabe Fulani.

On Niger's Hausa (who constitute over one-half of the population), Guy Nicholas's many works are all-encompassing and can be supplemented by Claude Reynaut's, especially his microstudy, *Structure Normatives et Relations Electives: Etude d'une communauté villageoise Hausa*. For the country's Maouri, the work of Marc Henri Piaux is unrivaled, while Colette Piaux's study of the life of traditional Maouri women spans several disciplines in its breadth. For both the Kurtey and Wogo, the studies of Olivier de Sardan constitute the best introduction. Cline's English-language monograph on the Teda branch of the Toubou is also valuable.

When one approaches the study of the Tuareg, who have been particularly fascinating to French scholarship, one is faced with a truly voluminous body of research that is regularly being augmented. In view of the modest numbers of the Tuareg, this is even more impressive. Numerous excellent studies abound, and any selection here would perforce be highly idiosyncratic. Of particular note, however, would be the works of Edmond Bernus. His *Les Illabakan*, for example, is a solid microstudy, and his monumental *Touaregs Nigériens* (1981) is the definitive work on this ethnic group. Also noteworthy are his *Quelques aspects de l'évolution des Touareg de l'Ouest de la République du Niger*, and his joint work with Suzanne Bernus on the salt pan oases of In Gall and Teguida (*Du Sel et des Dates*), which is fascinating. Chapelle's many briefer reports, including one on the Tuareg, are also useful though not easily accessible, as they must be examined in the CHEAM archives in Paris. The Danish scholar Nicolaisen has also published some noteworthy work in English on the Tuareg, including his articles in *Folk* (Copenhagen) and his large *Ecology and Culture of the Pastoral Tuareg*. Francis Nicholas is yet another prolific scholar of world renown who has contributed much outstanding material on the Tuareg. For one earlier study, still of great use today, see Urvoy's seminal "Histoire des Ouilliminden de l'Est." More recently, Hélène Claudot-Hawad has contributed some important work on the Tuareg.

In the "Sociology and Demography" section of this Bibliography, Suzanne Bernus's study of Niamey is sadly outdated by the major expansion of the capital since 1960, but is nevertheless practically the only study of its kind and is a solid piece of research. Nicole Echard, whose work spans several subfields, has also written much of interest on the sociology of the Ader region.

There are numerous good works in the "History" section. Any discussion of this subfield needs to note the many contributions by Boubou Hama, the prolific former president of Niger's National Assembly, who

was not just one of the trio ruling Niger for two decades, but an avid scholar and writer as well. His books, by now mostly out of print at *Présence Africaine* in Paris, tend to be long, rambling, and disjointed, but they contain invaluable material especially on oral history and tradition. They range from studies of the Fulani to the Hausa, Songhay, Djerma, and Tuareg. The two American books by Stephen Baier and Roberta Dunbar on the Sultanate of Damagaram (and especially its political economy) are extremely useful, and not only because they are in English. Sir Herbert Palmer's, A. Adu Boahen's, and E. William Bovill's works on trans-Saharan trade patterns and the Sahara-Sudan in previous centuries should need no introduction to Africanists. Though their major focus is on the trade itself, and regions outside contemporary Niger, since one terminal of the caravan trade was in Niger, their books are vital to any understanding of the outside factors affecting Niger. In this connection one could also refer to the excellent 1986 study by Paul Lovejoy on salt production and salt trade in the Sahara.

David's study of Maradi is one of the best concise histories of this city-state. Finn Fugelstad's articles fill several important gaps as well, and his *History of Niger, 1850-1960*, though much too concise to reveal the richness of the primary data available, remains a good synthesis in the English language of Niger's recent history. (See also his contributions under "Politics.") In like manner, Rash (a former Israeli ambassador to Niger) has written a good monograph on France's role in the Damergou interclan Tuareg rivalry at the turn of the century. André Salifou's *Le Damagaram ou Sultanat de Zinder au XIXe siècle* is possibly the best single-volume study of this kingdom. Salifou has written another invaluable study on the Aïr rebellion during the First World War—*Kaoussan ou la révolte senoussite*—which surprisingly is one of very few recent reanalyses of the siege of Agadez. He has written on other historical themes, such as the Fihroun rebellion and Malan Yaro, one of the key leaders of Damagaram at the time of the French conquest. And, in 1992, as both historian and a politician, he wrote a book on the Tuareg as a rebuttal to their grievances, as documented by one of the leaders of the Tuareg rebellion of the 1990s, Mano Dayak. Gregoire's work on the Hausa merchants of Maradi is one of the first such studies in general, and it is all the more valuable in that it was translated into English in 1992. Finally, Séré de Rivières's *Histoire du Niger*, though weak on the more contemporary era, is the best single-volume introduction to Niger in general, containing chapters on the geography, ethnology, and history of the country. One could also note here Urvoy's 1934 article on the historically important Agadez Chronicles.

Much more has been written in English on Niger politics than on other subjects, this having always been a major weakness of French scholarship, anxious not to offend former colonies and their leaders. Still, there is little



work, in any language, on the immediate pre-independence era (1945–60), and precious little on the Diori era. By and large, for those interested in post-independence Niger, the best combination of materials would be the books by Séré de Rivières and Fugelstad (noted previously under "History"), the chapters on Niger in *Année Politique Africaine*, *Année Africaine*, and *Africa Contemporary Record* (the last sadly now no longer being issued), supplemented by American scholarship (the book by Charlick, the chapter by Decalo), and by reports on ongoing developments in the two series of *Africa Research Bulletin*, *Africa Confidential*, and *West Africa*. As usual, one should refer to *Politique Africaine*, which intermittently comes out with a special volume on an individual country, as it did with no. 38 on Niger.

In the field of economics, a basic research tool supplying much needed raw statistical data that cannot easily be obtained elsewhere is the Central Bank's (BCEAO) quarterly "Indicateurs Economique Nigériens" and other occasional monographs on Niger. Belloncle's writings are invaluable for any discussion of the Niger cooperative movement and the UNCC. The International Monetary Fund has a very dated though solid chapter on Niger in its *Surveys of African Economics*. With the onset of the continentwide economic stagnation and debt crisis in the 1980s, however, there has been a massive spurt of books and articles on economic issues, as attested in the items listed in this section, many of which are in English.

On the Sahel droughts that have intermittently ravaged Niger, Jean Copans's *Sécheresses et famines du Sahel* has a number of valuable contributions by various scholars (including Raynaut's chapter on the Maradi region, mentioned above), which can be contrasted with Michael Glantz's *Politics of Natural Disaster: The Case of the Sahel Drought*. The political effect of the drought in Niger (leading indirectly to the 1974 coup d'état) is treated in Victor du Bois's *Fieldstaff Reports*. The United Nations Special Sahelian Office has also published several studies in recent years, as have a large number of scholars.

In the section on education, much attention has been focused on Niger's unique (for Africa) experiment with educational television and with radio clubs. A sprinkling of new contributions have appeared more recently as well. The "Science" section is only a sampling of a much more voluminous selection of work available and is dominated by studies on the important 1960 Berliet-Ténéré expedition. Chudeau's works are also noteworthy, as are those by Urvoy—though these are from several decades ago and deal with areas somewhat to the west of the Niger Republic.

Among the studies on African religions and cosmologies, one can note the many studies on the Bori cult and the Azna Hausa, especially by Besmer, Broustra-Monfouga, and Jacqueline Nicholas, including the last's *Jumens' des Dieux: Rites de possession et condition féminine en pays*

hausa and *Ambivalence et culte de possession. Contribution à l'étude du Bori Hausa*. One should also note Stoller's research, in English, which is seminal and has already been cited under "Anthropology."

Niger's literary output is well represented by Dandobi's *Kabrin Kaba* and the various books by Boubou Hama and by the latter in cooperation with Andrée Clair. André Salifou's much-acclaimed play, *Tanimoune*, is no doubt familiar to many, and new books and plays are published intermittently.

The section on linguistics lists many of the standard works on Niger's languages and dialects. The section on the arts includes the comprehensive article by Dieterlen and Ligers on Tuareg jewelry and one by Dupuis and Echard on Ader's pottery. Another noteworthy work is the study by Ligers, *La Sculpture Nigérienne*.

The prospective tourist has by now a more than adequate selection of material from which to choose in English. Among the French titles, Bourget's *Fascinant Niger* is particularly good.

Among the best continuing sources for the further study of Niger are *Africa Research Bulletin*, *Année Politique Africaine*, and the occasional articles on Niger that appear in *Politique Africaine*, *West Africa*, and *Africa Confidential*.

The books and articles in this bibliography have been organized under the following subject headings:

- General Works
- Archaeology and Prehistory
- Early Explorations
- Anthropology and Ethnology
  - Bozo/Sorko
  - Djerma/Songhay
  - Fulani
  - Maouri
  - Soudié/Kurtey/Wogo
  - Hausa
  - Toubou
  - Tuareg
- Sociology and Demography
- History
- Politics, Administration, and Foreign Relations
- Economic and Development Issues
  - The Sahel Drought
  - Uranium
- Education



Scientific Studies  
 Religion  
 Literature  
 Linguistics  
 Arts  
 Tourism and Travel  
 Sources, Reference Works, and Bibliographies

## General Works

- Afrique Occidentale Française*. 2 vols. Paris: Encyclopédie Coloniale et Maritime, 1949.
- Blanguernon, Claude. *Le Hoggar*. Paris: Arthaud, 1955.
- Bourges, Hervé, and Claude Wauthier. *Les 50 Afriques*. Paris: Le Seuil, 1979.
- Brass, William. "The Demography of the French-Speaking Territories." In A. J. Coale (ed.), *The Demography of Tropical Africa*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1968, pp. 342-439.
- Brunschwig, Henri. *Le Partage de l'Afrique Noire*. Paris: Flammarion, 1971.
- Chailley, Marcel. *Les Grandes Missions Françaises en Afrique Occidentale*. Dakar: IFAN, 1953.
- . *Histoire de l'Afrique Occidentale Française*. Paris: Berger-Levrault, 1968.
- Corbett, Edward M. *The French Presence in Black Africa*. Washington, D.C.: Black Orpheus Press, 1972.
- Cornevin, Robert. *Histoire de l'Afrique*. 2 vols. Paris: Payot, 1967.
- . *Histoire des Peuples de l'Afrique Noire*. Paris: Berger-Levrault, 1960.
- Delavignette, Robert. *Afrique Occidentale Française*. Paris: Editions Géographiques, Maritimes et Coloniales, 1931.
- Deloncle, Pierre. *L'Afrique Occidentale Française: Découverte, Pacification, Mise en Valeur*. Paris: Editions Ernest Leroux, 1934.
- Deschamps, H. *Histoire Générale de l'Afrique Noire*. 2 vols. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1970-71.
- Dossiers Niger*. Paris: Recontres Africaines, 1988.
- Englebert, Victor. *The Goats of Agadez*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1973.
- Fage, J. D. *An Introduction to the History of West Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1959.
- Finley, Diana. *The Niger*. London: Macdonald Education, 1975.
- Food and Agricultural Organization. *FAO Africa Survey*. Rome, 1961.
- France. Ministère de la Coopération. *Etude Monographique de trente et un pays Africains*. 4 vols. Paris, 1965.

- Gann, L. H., and P. Duignan (eds.). *Colonialism in Africa, 1870-1960*. 4 vols. London: Cambridge University Press, 1969+.
- Gardi, René. *Sahara*. Bern: Kümmerly et Frey, 1969.
- Gautier, E. F. *L'Afrique Noire Occidentale*. Paris: Larose, 1935.
- . *Le Sahara*. Paris: Payot, 1948.
- Gouzy, René. *Du Leman au Niger par le Sahara*. Geneva: A. Jullien, 1935.
- Green, Scott, et al. *The New Urbanization*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1967.
- Hallett, Robin. *Africa to 1875: A Modern History*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1970.
- Hance, William A. *Geography of Modern Africa*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1967.
- Hänny, E. R. *Vom Sudan zum Mittelmeer*. Saint Gall: Verlag Zollikofer & Co., 1944.
- Hanotlaux, G., and A. Martineau. *Histoire des Colonies Françaises*. 6 vols. Paris: Plon, 1932.
- Jenness, Aylette. *Along the Niger River: An African Way of Life*. New York: Crowell, 1974.
- Kimble, George H. T. *Tropical Africa*. 2 vols. New York: Twentieth Century Fund, 1960.
- Kitchen, Helen. *A Handbook of African Affairs*. London: Pall Mall, 1964.
- Klotchkoff, Jean-Claude. *Le Niger aujourd'hui*. Paris: Editions Jeune Afrique, 1982.
- Lusignan, G. de. *French-Speaking Africa Since Independence*. London: Pall Mall, 1969.
- MacArthur, Wilson. *The Desert Watches*. Indianapolis, Ind.: Bobbs-Merrill, 1954.
- Martel, André. "Pour une Histoire de Sahara Français." *Revue Française d'Histoire d'Outre-Mer* 55, no. 200 (1968): 335-51.
- Martin, Gaston. *Histoire de l'Esclavage dans les colonies françaises*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1948.
- Meillassoux, Claude. *L'Esclavage en Afrique précoloniale*. Paris: Maspéro, 1975.
- Moberg, G. *Rädslandsland 16,000 kilometer genom Sahara och Sudan*. Stockholm: A. Bonnier, 1927.
- Morgan, Ted. *The Strong Brown God: The Story of the Niger River*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1976.
- Morgenthau, Ruth Schachter. *Political Parties in French-Speaking West Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1964.
- Mourgues, Gaston. *Le Moyen Niger et sa Boucle*. Paris: Comité de l'Afrique Française, 1933.
- "Niger." Special section in *Jeune Afrique*, no. 953 (Apr. 12, 1979).